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Report to the Transportation Committee October 24, 2008

The Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on October 7 where a summary of accomplishments for state fiscal year 2008 and to date for state fiscal year 2009 STP was given. The reports show that the suburban Councils spent \$13 million over the appropriation in 2008 and that no projects were held up due to lack of state appropriation. While the Councils spent more than they have in the past few years in 2008, they spent only 50% of the dollars they had programmed for that year. There was a discussion regarding the reasons why some of the projects were not accomplished, the need to avoid project delays, and the need for more accurate programming.

In state fiscal year 2009, the Councils are continuing to do better in spending their STP appropriation. The Councils have already spent 41% of their appropriation in the first two lettings of state fiscal year 2009 and there are six remaining lettings. There are opportunities to use other appropriations if the Councils continue to be successful. The Committee discussed ways to be more aggressive in minimizing project delays so that funds can be spent. SAFETEA-LU ends in 2009 so it is the goal to enter into the next reauthorization period with a zero balance. This will show that northeastern Illinois can spend appropriation and could use additional funds. The Committee then voted to go on record to support a capital bill for Illinois by sending a resolution to the Governor stating the need for funds for infrastructure and transportation projects.

The City of Chicago presented their Jackson Boulevard Bridge project as the regional project for STP funding. The Committee voted to accept this project as part of the new city/suburban split agreed upon earlier in the year.

An overview was given on the draft process for Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). The Committee discussed the process and gave input and was told the public comment period continues through December 1, 2008 and will include the Councils of Mayors and the Councils of Governments.

There was an update given on the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the GO TO 2040 Partnership Campaign and the Future Leaders in Planning program.

The next Council of Mayors meeting is "On Call".